

Jodie Berger (SBN 124144)
jberger@wclp.org
Richard Rothschild (SBN 67356)
rrothschild@wclp.org
Robert Newman (SBN 86534)
rnewman@wclp.org
Antionette Dozier (SBN 244437)
adozier@wclp.org
WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY
3701 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 208
Los Angeles, CA 90010
T: (213) 235-2617
F: (213) 487-0242

Lindsay Nako (SBN 239090)
lnako@impactfund.org
Fawn Rajbhandari-Korr (SBN 315888)
fkorr@impactfund.org
Meredith Dixon (SBN 346864)
mdixon@impactfund.org
IMPACT FUND
2080 Addison St., Suite 5
Berkeley, CA 94704
T: (510) 845-3473
F: (510) 845-3654

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ANIKA OKJE ERDMANN-BROWNING
and JACQUELINE BENITEZ, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMAS J. VILSACK, Secretary, United
States Department of Agriculture, in his
official capacity; SHALANDA YOUNG,
Director of the United States Office of
Management and Budget, in her official
capacity.

Defendants.

Case No.: 3:23-cv-04678

**DECLARATION OF JACQUELINE
BENITEZ IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' *EX PARTE*
APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND ORDER
TO SHOW CAUSE RE: PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

CLASS ACTION

Hearing Date: September 13, 2023
Time: TBD

Action filed: September 12, 2023

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1. I am a plaintiff and a proposed class representative in this case. I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration and am competent to testify to them.

2. I am a resident of Downey, in Los Angeles County.

4. I currently receive \$55 per month in CalFresh benefits. I will be getting \$88/month as of October 2023.

6. I struggled to find a job that paid enough money to meet my basic living expenses.

8. I am also attending Cal State Long Beach, majoring in Child Development and Family Services so I can increase my earning capacity. I get financial aid, some of which I can use to meet my living expenses.

10. I have very little cash to use for buying food. I budget about \$100 per month for food. That includes my CalFresh benefits.

12. It is already a struggle to meet my food needs since I don't have much cash

1 income to pay for food. I do not eat three meals a day. I have a bowl of cereal and one full meal
2 a day. Sometimes I get snacks from my worksite.

3 13. If my CalFresh benefits are delayed, or taken away all together, I will have a hard
4 time getting enough to eat every day, as I would lose more than half my food buying capacity. I
5 will be hungry, and this will make it hard for me to work as a preschool teacher and do well in
6 my college classes.

7 14. I want to keep my CalFresh benefits going, but I also want to help all the other
8 people like me in California and the rest of the country whose SNAP food benefits will be
9 delayed or suspended if the federal government shutdown. I know that my job as a class
10 representative is to stay informed about the lawsuit, give information and feedback to my
11 lawyers, and participate in court or other case-related events. I also know that I need to put the
12 interests of the class members ahead of my own, and I am prepared to take on that responsibility.

13 I hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of under the laws of the United
14 States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

15 Executed on 9/10/2023, 2023, in Los Angeles County.

DocuSigned by:

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Jacqueline Benitez